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HOUSE BILL 503

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CHANGING THE STATEWIDE COLLEGE AND
WORKPLACE READINESS ASSESSMENTS; ALLOWING THE ELEVENTH GRADE
STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENTS TO SERVE AS THE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED
FOR GRADUATION; CHANGING THE DATE BY WHICH ASSESSMENT RULES
MUST BE PROMULGATED; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE
SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2007.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-2C-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,
Chapter 307, Section 4 and Laws 2007, Chapter 308, Section 4)
is amended to read:

"22-2C-4.1. STATEWIDE COLLEGE AND WORKPLACE READINESS
ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.--

A. The department shall establish a readiness
assessment system to measure the readiness of every New Mexico

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1 high school student for success in higher education or a career
2 no later than the 2008-2009 school year. The department shall
3 ensure that the readiness assessment system is aligned with
4 state academic content and performance standards, college
5 placement tests and entry-level career skill requirements. The
6 readiness assessment system shall include the following
7 components:

8 (1) ~~[a high school readiness assessment in~~
9 ~~English, reading, mathematics and science in the fall semester~~
10 ~~of]~~ in grade nine, a short-cycle diagnostic assessment in
11 reading, language arts and mathematics to be locally
12 administered in the fall and at least two additional times
13 during the year;

14 (2) ~~[a college readiness assessment in~~
15 ~~English, reading and mathematics]~~ in grade ten, a short-cycle
16 diagnostic assessment in reading, language arts and mathematics
17 that also serves as an early indicator of college readiness, to
18 be locally administered at least three times during the year;
19 and

20 (3) ~~[a workplace readiness assessment to~~
21 ~~assess applied skills in reading, mathematics and locating~~
22 ~~information]~~ in grade eleven, in the fall, one or more of the
23 following chosen by the student:

24 (a) a college placement assessment;

25 (b) a workforce readiness assessment; or

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(c) an alternative demonstration of competency using standards-based indicators.

B. All students at the specified grade level shall participate in the readiness assessment system at no cost to the student.

C. The department shall ensure that results of performance on readiness assessments administered in grades nine and ten are reported to students, parents and public schools no later than four weeks following the date on which the assessments are administered, in a form that is easily understandable and useful in the next-step planning process. Reports of assessment results shall be provided to students and parents in writing whenever possible, but, if necessary, orally in the language best understood by each student and parent.

D. The department shall adopt standards for reasonable accommodations in the administration of readiness assessments for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency, including when and how accommodations may be applied.

E. In developing ~~[or]~~, selecting or approving the high school or college readiness assessments for school district or charter school use, the department may adopt commercially available standards-based assessments or approve a school district's or charter school's short-cycle assessments that meet the requirements of this section. The department

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1 shall involve appropriate licensed school employees in the
2 development or selection of readiness assessments."

3 Section 2. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
4 Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2007, Chapter 305,
5 Section 1 and by Laws 2007, Chapter 307, Section 8 and also by
6 Laws 2007, Chapter 308, Section 8) is amended to read:

7 "22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

8 A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each
9 student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets forth
10 the coursework for the grades remaining until high school
11 graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences
12 from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the
13 principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by
14 the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance
15 counselor or other school official charged with coursework
16 planning for the student.

17 B. Each student must complete a final next-step
18 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The plan
19 shall be filed with the principal of the student's high school
20 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and
21 the student's guidance counselor or other school official
22 charged with coursework planning for the student.

23 C. An individualized education program that meets
24 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and
25 that meets all applicable transition and procedural

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1 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
2 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the
3 next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

4 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high
5 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan
6 based on reports of college and workplace readiness
7 assessments, as available, and other factors and is reasonably
8 informed about:

9 (1) curricular and course options, including
10 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
11 distance learning courses, career clusters or remediation
12 programs that the college and workplace readiness assessments
13 indicate to be appropriate;

14 (2) opportunities available that lead to
15 different post-high-school options; and

16 (3) alternative opportunities available if the
17 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

18 E. The secretary shall:

19 (1) establish specific accountability
20 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
21 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity
22 to develop a next-step plan;

23 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private
24 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the
25 provisions of this section;

1 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
2 of this section; and

3 (4) compile such information as is necessary
4 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,
5 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee
6 and the governor.

7 F. Successful completion of a minimum of
8 twenty-three units aligned to the state academic content and
9 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These
10 units shall be as follows:

11 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis
12 on grammar and literature;

13 (2) three units in mathematics, at least one
14 of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;

15 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
16 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with
17 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006
18 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of
19 which shall have a laboratory component;

20 (4) three units in social science, which shall
21 include United States history and geography, world history and
22 geography and government and economics;

23 (5) one unit in physical education;

24 (6) one unit in communication skills or
25 business education, with a major emphasis on writing and

1 speaking and that may include a language other than English;

2 (7) one-half unit in New Mexico history for
3 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006
4 school year; and

5 (8) nine elective units and seven and
6 one-half elective units for students entering the ninth grade
7 in the 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and
8 performance standards. Student service learning shall be
9 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as
10 an elective.

11 G. For students entering the ninth grade beginning
12 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units
13 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced
14 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in
15 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a
16 distance learning course.

17 H. The department shall establish a procedure for
18 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
19 career technical education courses for certain graduation
20 requirements.

21 I. Successful completion of the requirements of the
22 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for
23 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in
24 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a minimum
25 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and

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1 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico
2 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

3 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis
4 on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature;

5 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
6 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra
7 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for
8 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit;

9 (3) three units in science, two of which shall
10 have a laboratory component;

11 (4) three and one-half units in social
12 science, which shall include United States history and
13 geography, world history and geography and government and
14 economics, and one-half unit of New Mexico history;

15 (5) one unit in physical education;

16 (6) one unit in one of the following:
17 a career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language
18 other than English; and

19 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
20 meet department content and performance standards. Student
21 service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial
22 literacy shall be offered as an elective.

23 J. Final examinations shall be administered to all
24 students in all classes offered for credit.

25 K. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not passed

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1 a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading,
2 English, mathematics, writing, science and social science shall
3 not receive a high school diploma. The state graduation
4 examination on social science shall include a section on the
5 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New
6 Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end
7 of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation
8 examination, the student shall receive an appropriate state
9 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the
10 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits
11 from the school system the student takes and passes the state
12 graduation examination, the student may receive a high school
13 diploma.

14 L. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
15 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if
16 the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
17 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,
18 social studies and science, including a section on the
19 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New
20 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or
21 a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the
22 department by rule [~~no later than January 15, 2008~~]. The
23 standards-based assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA
24 1978 may also serve as the assessment required for high school
25 graduation. If a student exits from the school system at the

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1 end of grade twelve without having satisfied the requirements
2 of this subsection, the student shall receive an appropriate
3 state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and
4 the grade completed. If within five years after a student
5 exits from the school system the student satisfies the
6 requirement of this subsection, the student may receive a New
7 Mexico diploma of excellence.

8 M. As used in this section:

9 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
10 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
11 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,
12 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an
13 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

14 (2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual
15 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school
16 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student
17 to achieve those goals; and

18 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal
19 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public
20 school or other state-supported school or institution in
21 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or
22 other school official charged with coursework planning for the
23 student that includes one or more of the following:

24 (a) advanced placement or honors
25 courses;

1 (b) dual-credit courses offered in
2 cooperation with an institution of higher education; and

3 (c) distance learning courses.

4 N. The secretary may establish a policy to provide
5 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and
6 testing provisions of the Public School Code."

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